

# Artificial Intelligence (AI) Basics for the Curious

**COURSE:** Spring 2026 Session 1 of 6  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 10·2:15 – 4:00 pm  
**Location:** Mackey/Zoom/Stream

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## **TITLE:** From Curiosity to Judgment

**Subtitle:** *Thinking Carefully About AI*

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### **DEFINITION**

- AI = software that recognizes patterns and predicts what comes next.
- It predicts. It doesn't verify truth.

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### **THREE PRINCIPLES**

1. **Prediction ≠ Knowledge**  
AI predicts what sounds right, not what is true.
2. **Confidence ≠ Correctness**  
AI sounds certain even when wrong.
3. **Delegation ≠ Abdication**  
AI can help. You stay responsible.

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### **STAKES FRAMEWORK**

Ask yourself:

1. If I'm wrong, what happens?
2. Would I know I was wrong?
3. Is there a professional for this?

- **LOW STAKES:** Use freely (brainstorm, draft, summarize)
- **MEDIUM STAKES:** Use + verify (learn concepts, check official sources)
- **HIGH STAKES:** Consult expert (medical, legal, financial decisions)

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## KEY MODEL: CLEVELAND CLINIC

1. AI flags patterns. Doctor reviews, decides, takes responsibility.
2. Lesson: Delegation (AI assists, human decides), not abdication.

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## HALLUCINATION

1. AI predicts "next word," not "is this real?"
2. Result: Can invent official-sounding but fake information.
3. Remember: Confidence ≠ Correctness.

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## HOMEWORK

1. Notice one system suggesting something (GPS, email, Netflix, etc.).
2. Ask: **WHAT? WHY? IS IT RIGHT? WHO DECIDES?**
3. Share or keep private. Just notice.

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## TAKE WITH YOU

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prediction ≠ Knowledge</li> <li>• Confidence ≠ Correctness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check your stakes</li> <li>• Stay responsible</li> </ul>
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	<p><b>OLLI - Online Artificial Intelligence (AI) Basics for the Curious</b></p> <p>Live Streaming and Recording</p> <p>Spring 2026</p> <p>Click the class session you wish to view</p> <p><a href="#">AI Basics Livestream Link</a></p>
	<p><b>Artificial Intelligence (AI) Basics for the Curious OLLI Course Page</b></p> <p>Alternate Tuesdays • 2:15 p.m.-4 p.m. • Mackey Auditorium/Zoom/Stream</p> <p><i>February 10, 24 • March 10, 24 • April 14, 28 • May (12 no class)</i></p> <p><a href="#">Click here for the recordings and Live Stream link for this course.</a></p>